



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
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MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

April 4, 2012

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES' REQUEST TO APPOINT MR. BRANDON NICHOLS TO THE POSITION OF SENIOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES (UNCLASSIFIED)

Consistent with Board-approved Policy on management appointments, the Department of Children and Family Services, with the support of the Chief Executive Office, requests approval to appoint Mr. Brandon Nichols to the temporary position of Senior Deputy Director, Children and Family Services (UC), at an annual base salary of \$201,000.00. This salary is recommended based on Mr. Nichols' extensive experience and the role and responsibilities he will be assuming in this critical position. It is anticipated that this assignment will last for approximately one year. When this special assignment is completed Mr. Nichols will return to the County Counsel's Office and be placed back onto his current payroll title and salary.

As Senior Deputy Director, Children and Family Services, Mr. Nichols will report to the Director and will serve as a key member of the Department's Executive Team. He will act as Departmental liaison to the Office of the County Counsel, CEO-Risk Management, the Children's Special Investigation Unit (CSIU), and to your Board on issues of sensitive cases, critical incidents and child fatalities. Mr. Nichols will also be given direct management and supervision of the Risk Management and Litigation Management Divisions of the Department in addition to assuming Department-wide responsibilities for ad-hoc controversial issues requiring highly skilled/specialized treatment.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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In his current position of Principal Deputy County Counsel, Mr. Nichols has demonstrated exemplary leadership on difficult issues and shown exceptional skill in developing collaborative resolutions to controversial and politically sensitive legal matters. He has a long history serving as a government lawyer and has particular experience in the areas of child welfare, civil litigation/risk management, and employment. In his role as lead counsel on the Katie A. vs. Bonta class action lawsuit, he has become recognized as a state-wide legal expert on programs providing mental health services to children in foster care systems. He has also supervised litigation for, and provided risk-management advice to, many large County departments including Children and Family Services, Public Social Services, Mental Health and Health Services.

In accordance with policy on managerial appointments, unless otherwise instructed by your Board by April 18, 2012, the Chief Executive Office will advise the Department of Children and Family Services that authorization has been granted to proceed with Mr. Nichols' appointment to Senior Deputy Director, Children and Family Services (UC), at an annual base salary of \$201,000.00, effective no sooner than April 19, 2012.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Steve Masterson, Manager, CEO at (213) 974-8481.

WTF:BC:ES
SJM:SO:ra

c: Department of Children and Family Services
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel

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